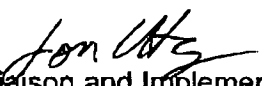


MEMORANDUM

United States Department of Education
Washington, DC 20202

DATE: February 16, 2006

TO: Rachel F. Potter
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

FROM: Jon Utz 
Policy Liaison and Implementation
Federal Student Aid
U.S. Department of Education

SUBJECT: Request for extension of the Federal Direct PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note and Endorser Addendum (OMB No. 1845-0068)

The Department of Education (the Department) is requesting an extension of the currently approved Federal Direct PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note (Direct PLUS Loan MPN) and Endorser Addendum (Addendum) for a period of two years.

For the initial public comment period, the Department posted a slightly revised version of the currently approved Direct PLUS Loan MPN and Addendum that included minor text changes for greater clarity and for consistency with other Direct Loan Program promissory notes. We received no comments during the initial 60-day comment period for this collection. However, we did receive comments from two parties, the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) and Texas Guaranteed (TG), on the corresponding Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program Federal PLUS Loan MPN and Addendum (OMB No. 1845-0069) that was in the 60-day public comment period for part of the same time as the Direct PLUS MPN.

NCHELP submitted suggestions for numerous changes that they believed would improve the current Federal PLUS Loan MPN and Addendum. However, NCHELP also noted that legislative activities to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (the HEA) were underway. NCHELP therefore recommended that the Department prepare a single revision of the Federal PLUS Loan MPN and Addendum at a later date which would address both NCHELP's suggested changes as well as any additional changes required by the expected amendments to the HEA.

As noted in a recent memo to OMB submitted in connection with 1845-0069, the Department agreed with NCHELP's recommendation with regard to the Federal PLUS Loan MPN and Addendum and believes that the same approach should be taken with the Direct PLUS Loan MPN and Addendum. At a later date, the Department will prepare a revised Direct PLUS Loan MPN and Addendum that reflects changes required by the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (enacted into law after the submission of the comments from NCHELP and TG) as well as any additional changes required by a reauthorization of the HEA, should a reauthorization occur later this year. The revised forms to be submitted for clearance at a later date will also include the minor text changes referenced above.

Thank you for your assistance with this request. Please contact me at (202) 377-4040 or by e-mail (jon.utz@ed.gov) if you have any questions.